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10 June 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Dominican Republic: John Abbes, symbol of past police brutalities from which Dominican leaders are now trying publicly to dissociate themselves, has applied urgently for Canadian and Jamaican transit visas, according to Canadian and British embassy officials who were told that he had been assigned to the Dominican Embassy in Tokyo. Jose Marti Otero, nominal head of Radio Caribe which disseminated viciously anti-US and pro-Castro propaganda prior to the assassination, is also reportedly being assigned to the embassy in Tokyo. The American Consulate was informed that Abbes plans to travel in Europe, possibly including the Netherlands. This, in the consulate's view, could mean that he may be planning to contact Soviet bloc officials on behalf of the Dominican government. Abbes made similar contacts while in Europe last year through the Dominican diplomatic mission in The Hague.

Although Abbes has generally been identified with the clique around General Ramfis Trujillo, there are some indications of past rivalries between the two. Abbes' departure, even if temporary, will permit Ramfis to strengthen his personal control of the secret police machinery. A rumor heard by the consulate on 8 June that Abbes had signed a statement admitting responsibility for the assassination attempt on Venezuelan President Betancourt last year suggests the regime may be preparing to use Abbes as a scapegoat. The attempt to assassinate Betancourt, in which Abbes almost certainly participated under the direction of the late dictator, was the most important event that led the OAS to impose sanctions against the Trujillo regime last year.

Meanwhile, dissident Dominicans, though basically friendly to the US, are afraid to display friendship toward US officials and newsmen, [Redacted] they doubt the sincerity of the friendly gestures now being made

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by Dominican officials toward the US and fear that retaliatory measures will be taken against Dominicans in contact with Americans.

[In conversations on 7 June related to Ambassador Stevenson's visit with President Frondizi, Argentine Foreign Minister Mugica told Ambassador Briggs and Rubottom that his country would oppose any additional OAS sanctions against the Dominican Republic beyond those of an economic nature. Mugica, who gave Ambassador Rubottom an impression that Argentina had little information on the Dominican situation, added that his government would take a "dim view" of armed intervention there in almost any circumstances and expressed concern that Venezuelan President Betancourt might "get too far ahead of the procession." A similar view was recently expressed by the Colombian Government in regard to Betancourt's position.]

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Iran: The Iranian Government's announcement on 8 June that the prime minister had asked the Shah for a decree proclaiming parliamentary elections appears to be an attempt to deprive the National Front of an issue with which to attack the government. The announcement gave no indication of when elections would be held, but a regime spokesman said unofficially that the government hoped to hold them within two months. With Amini adopting most of the National Front's program, the Front has been left with little to attack except Amini's delay in calling new elections. The government announced that no new electoral law would be drawn up but that a committee of judges was reviewing the present law to suggest amendments which would make the law more effective. Amini has previously expressed reluctance to hold elections before 1962, and he may attempt to prolong the review of regulations and preliminary arrangements for the election.

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